

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
7 April 2005 (07.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/030265 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61K 49/00**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/NO2004/000286
- (22) International Filing Date:
28 September 2004 (28.09.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
20034351 29 September 2003 (29.09.2003) NO
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
7 July 2005
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: OPTICAL IMAGING OF ENDOMETRIOSIS

(57) Abstract: The invention provides contrast agents for optical imaging of endometriosis in patients. The contrast agent may be used in diagnosis of endometriosis, for follow-up of progress in disease development, and for follow-up of treatment of endometriosis. Further, the invention provides methods for optical imaging of endometriosis. The contrast agent has affinity for an abnormally expressed target associated with endometriosis. By abnormally expressed, is meant that the target is either overexpressed or downregulated. Endometriotic tissue containing a downregulated target may be identified by a low amount of bound contrast agent compared to normal tissue. In this situation, the amount of contrast agent should be less than 50% of that in normal tissue, preferably less than 10%.

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